

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior claim listings:

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~providing~~ collecting a fee for a service of a service provider comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from said service provider to collect the fee from a user, said request including the amount of the fee ~~a service request requesting desired service for a user from the service provider and a digital signature created based on said service request to said service provider;~~

~~automatically recording the service request and the digital signature in an IC card, wherein information recorded on the IC card cannot be modified;~~

receiving the an IC card from the user, said IC card including service request data and digital signature data;

reading said service request data and said digital signature data on said IC card;

determining to determine ~~whether~~ said service request data and said digital signature data are valid; ~~and~~

calculating the fee using the service request data on said IC card when it is determined that said service request data and said digital signature data are valid[[.]]; and

collecting the fee from the user,

wherein,

said service request data recorded on said IC card cannot be modified, and

said digital signature is a function of said service request.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein said IC card is connectable to a user terminal, and the user sends said service request data and said digital signature data stored in said IC card by submitting said IC card.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein said service request data and digital signature data stored in said IC card are impossible for the user to rewrite.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein said IC card has information used for generating said digital signature data.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein said information includes personal information of the user.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22 wherein said personal information includes a user name and a bank account number of the user.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for collecting ~~providing~~ a fee for a service of a service provider comprising:

means for receiving a request from said service provider to collect the fee from a user, said request including the amount of the fee ~~a service request requesting desired service for a user from the service provider and a digital signature created based on said service request to said service provider;~~

~~means for automatically recording the service request and the digital signature in an IC card, wherein information recorded on the IC card cannot be modified;~~

means for receiving ~~the an~~ IC card from the user, said IC card including service request data and digital signature data;

means for reading said service request data and said digital signature data on said IC card;

means for determining ~~to determine~~ whether said service request data and said digital signature data are valid; ~~and~~

means for calculating the fee using the service request data on said IC card ~~collecting the fee from the user~~ when it is determined that said service request data and said digital signature data are valid;

collecting the fee from the user,

wherein,

said service request data recorded on said IC card cannot be modified, and

said digital signature is a function of said service request.

25. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 24, wherein said IC card is connectable to a user terminal, and the user sends said service request data and said digital signature data stored in said IC card by submitting said IC card.

26. (Previously Presented) A system for requesting service of a service provider comprising:

a user terminal for providing to a service provider a service request requesting desired service and a digital signature created based on said service request to said service provider; and

a storage medium for storing said service request and said digital signature,

wherein when the user objects to a charge, in response to a charge collection notice from an accounting terminal, the user enables a sending of said storage medium to said accounting terminal, and the accounting terminal determines whether said service request and said digital signature are valid before collecting a fee from the user terminal.

27. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 26, wherein said storage medium is connectable to said user terminal, and the user sends said data stored in said storage medium by submitting said storage medium.